I was born Sepr 1st O.S. 1739 at Laytonstone in Essex and from my earliest years I can remember in a greater or lesser degree the Spirit of God was Striving with me and offering me Salvation, but I have slited the most gracious Calls, and many times turn'd my back on the most tender invitations. one day from a little Circumstance wch occ[urred] when I was about four years old I received such a Conviction that God heard prayer, as many times after administered much Comfort to me in Seasons of trial or Danger. & this I had the greater need of, being by nature fearfull to the greatest degree of folly — & how much this Effiminacy of disposition has cost me in my Christian ~~warfare~~ warfare & what Sufferings as well as Spiritual Loss I have Sustain'd therefrom is known only to my heavenly father.

When I was ~~about~~ 5 years old I begun to have much Concern about my Eternal welfare, and was frequently inquiring of those about me whether such & such things were Sins. On Sabbath Evenings my dear Father used to instruct us in the church Catechism at these Seasons I can remember asking many questions — I wanted to know whether any one ever did love God, with <u>all their hearts</u> — & their Neighbour as themselves; whether it was <u>really</u> the Command of God that we Should do so, & whether the Bible <u>really</u> ment <u>all</u> it said? for it seem'd to me if it did, I was wrong, & I thought all about me — for there appear'd a great Difference between the discription of a Xtian given in the word of God, & such Christians as now walk under that name x /// name

1 part

Name. as I was a backward Child & of weaker under
Standing then the others, it may be supposed I was
not well read in the Scriptures at 5 or 6 years old; but the way
the Lord took with me was this; Sentences out
of the word of God would frequently occur to my mind
& make a deep impression. Such as, "thou shalt love ye
Lord thy God with all thy heart". I wd answer but I do not,
Love God at all I dont know how to love him? — & thy
neighbour as thy self." this said I, I am sure I do not,
for tho: my Sister is dearer to me then any body Else, I
dont love her as well as my self, for if I was blamed
for a fault wh was hers I should condemn her to clear
my self. again that word Struck me much St paul
Sais "I have fought the good fight" — & when I was baptized
the minister said I was to be Christs faithfull Soldier &
Servant & fight manfully under his banner". this awed
me greatly — I thought I am sure I dont fight — neither
do I know what to fight against. but above all that
Sentence would follow me "Narrow is the way
wh leadeth unto life & few there be that find it." and
"if ye are not of the world the world will hate you".
I did not feel it a narrow way, & neither did the world
hate me, therefore I questiond often whether I was not
quite out of the way. yet it was not with any terror,
I believed if the Lord shewd me I was wrong he wd make
me right, & sometimes I prayed for it. at others was very

1st part

very carelefs. yet these reflecteans still dwelt on my mind & put me to a great lofs how to explain them. as I frequently ask'd questeon's about these subjects, I met with some who seem'd to make very light of them, & spake of those parts of Scripture as being very liable to mistake, & not requiring obidience in all the strictnefs I seem'd to suppose - this well agreed with my carnal mind & I easily drunk it in, & soon quench'd my slite convicteons, for as it is no difficult matter to ~~qu~~ extinguish a smoking flax, so it is very easy to drownd the soft voice of the Spirit by carnal reasoning. I now drew the following reflecttions — if the Bible dont mean all it seems to speak with regard to the commands of God - certainly the same alowance may be made for its threatenings — so that I began to believe there was no hell at all, or at least not half so terrenble as I had been taught to think. this thought Raised in me a dislike to the word of God, & great coldnefs & carelefsnefs throut all my conduct. but my adoreable Lord did not give me up to the hardnefs of my heart but still follow'd me with some drawings, often I thought "Maybe the Bible does mean what it saies, & then I am not a christean". & greatly did I wish to know what was the truth. my Sister near 5 years older then me was also under a concern for her soul, she ~~[illegible]~~ wish'd to know & do the will of God. about this time there came a servant maid to live with my Father who had heard, of, & felt, some little of the power of inward religeon. it was among the people call'd Methodists she had received her instructeons, ~~[illegible]~~

1st part

instruction. Seeing the uneasiness my Sister was under She took some opportunities of Conversing with her, I was at this Season with my grandmother. on my return home my Sister repeated the substance of these Conversations to me, I well remember the very Spot we stood on, & the words she spake, wh tho: we were but a few mineuts together sunk so deeply into my heart they were never after Erased. my reflections were suited to a child not 7 years old, I thought if I became a methodist I was sure to be saved & determined if ever I could get at this people whatever it cost I would be one of them.

but after a few Conversations, & hearing my Sister read some little Books this servant had given to her, I found out it was not being joined to any people would save me, but I must be "Converted," & "have faith in christ"; for I was to be saved by "beleiving", & that if it was the right faith that "beleiving would make me holy, & give me a power to love & serve God." the servant had now left our Family — & we were alone like Blind persons groping out our way in the dark. yet we had so far learned the truth as to express it in the above manner, but how to Comprehend it I could not tell; my heart rose against the Idea of being saved by faith because it seem'd a way I co'd not understand. one day looking over the ~~picktures~~ pictures in the Book of martyrs I thought it would be easier to burn then to beleive, & heartily did

1st part

did I wish that the papists would come & burn me, & then I thought I should be quite safe. yet these troubles were mixt with a degree of hope, I thought God does love me I beleive after all, & may be he will somehow shew me what it is to be converted & to beleive.

when I was between seven & 8 year old, musing one day on that thought, what can it be to know my sins for=given & to have faith in Jesus? I felt my heart rise against God for having appointed a way of salvation so hard to be understood — & with compunct anguish of soul I said — "if it was to die a martyr I could do it, or to give away all I have when grown up, & to become a servant that w^d be easy, but I shall never know how to beleive — in that moment these words were appl^d with mighty power to my soul

"who on Jesus relies, without money or price

ye pearl of forgiveness and holiness byes,"

it was accompanied with a light and power I had never known before with joy I cry^d out "I do, I do rely on Jesus, yes I do rely on Jesus, & God counts me righteous for what he has done & hath forgiven all my sins for what he hath suffer'd" I was now surprised that I could never find out this before I had thought every thing easier then to beleive but now I thought the way of beleiving more easy then any other: a Ray of light into the gospel plan shone upon my soul & I begun to adore the wonders of redeeming love.

but alas it was but as the drops of a shower, in a few days I lost the power in great measure, tho: not the light and

1st part

and I can remember many piemeries after this being at times brought to my mind— Something also of a Confidence in the Lord Jesus I ever retain'd & when fears would Spring up in my mind Concerning the day of judgment, I used to Comfort my Self with this thought: Jesus is to be the judge & I cannot be affraid of Jesus!— but I had not yet learn'd that Lesson "Thee for the Simple Life Divine

What will it Cost to Break

Ere pleasure Self & willy pride

no more within thee Speak."— Chap. 2nd.

about 9 years old I was Inoculated for the Small pox Some trials wh fell on my Spirits from the peculiar disposition of a certain person about me, nearly Cost me my life, tho I had the disorder very favourably on the whole; in thy hand O my God is the Breath of all living & what thine unering Wisdom chuses thy power to Being brings".
when I recoverd I fell into an uncommon lowness and weakness of Nerves— wh was accompanied with grievous temtations— I was oppress'd beyond measure with the fear of Sin, & accused in almost every thing I Said or did, nevertheless I lived in many Sins without ever discovering they were So— I was altogether a heap of inconsistance this was follow'd by a temtation unspeakably afflicting It was continualy Suggested to my mind I had Committed the Sin against the holy Ghost— the manner was thus— it would occur to my mind if Christ is the Son of God and, did perform his Miracles by the power of God then I will do, or Say So or So!— this appeard to me as my own willfull act there=fore I consider'd it as a kind of vow. wh made me fear I should commit what I Suppos'd the unpardenable Sin, if I did not

1st part

not perform the action however absurd: wch drew on me very Grievous Burdens & Exposed me to so much anger & reproach as made me quite weary of Life. Sometimes by this Strange temtation I was Constrained to do things so Displeasing to my parents that it appear'd to them as if I was obstinate & disobedient. and my flesh has seem'd ready to move on my bones when I have heard my dear mother say: "that Girl is the most perverse Creature that ever lived, I cant think what is come to her": my heart used to sink like a Stone for I knew not what to do, and the Grief of my mind quite distres'd my health. my Grandfather & grandmother who were to me the tenderest of parents seeing me in such a poor way as to my body (tho they knew not the Cause) desired to have me with them I grew something better while I was ~~with them~~ there but on my return home was as bad as ever. one day as I was alone in the house (the family having just run out to a Cannal that was Draging in ye Garden ~~[illegible]~~) Looking on my arm in wch I had been bled about an hour before, the Sugges=tion as above occur'd to my mind - that if Jesus was the Son of God ~~[illegible]~~ I wd Let my arm bleeding again. now was I in a great Strait & reason'd with my self, if I do so I Shall probably Bleed to death, then I Shall be guilty of murther & no murtherer hath Eternal Life': & if I do not do it I Shall Commit a Sin wch Cannot be forgiven. my Distress was Exceeding great at Last I determined to do it wch was not difficult as my Blood was then very thin. as Soon as I had done So I Scream'd out & mrs page the House=keeper being just Come into the Kitchen heard & run up to me

1st pair

me & presently stop'd it. they did not know I had done it on purpose, however I was reproved for my carelessness w^ch^ I took patiently enough because it was not hell. ——

my life was a burden to me at this season w^ch^ lasted I think nine ~~9~~ weeks. when one day opening my mind to my sister (as indeed I had often before attempted to do but cou'd not explain my self) she ~~said~~ providentialy us'd these words in her answer: why you don't mean to Blaspheme do ~~you~~ you? a light immediately struck into my mind — I weigh'd the thought over & over — and could truely say Lord thou knowest I don't mean to Blaspheme, & why I say these words I cannot tell! it then came into my mind that I had heard something about temtations & often wonder'd what it was, now thought I, may be Satan wispers this into my mind like what I read about Christian in the pilgrims progress going thro the valley of the shadow of death. I then determined never to regard them more but always answer w^th^ these words — I don't mean to Blaspheme I will acknowledge Christ forever. and in a few days I was perfectly deliver'd. — I am the more full on this head because it has been a warning to me ever since not to be too severe in passing a judgment on ye actions of children, whose reflections are far deeper & their feelings much keener than we are apt to ~~imagine~~ imagien. — I was now I beleive about ten year old.

I after this time I can recolect many comfortable moments in reading the word of God — the promises in Isaiah were in perticular ~~[illegible]~~ apply'd to my soul, & I hardly ever open'd

1 P

open^d the word of God but there was something for me, till one day listening to what a person said on the subject, I ~~heard~~ observed her make this remark: that many people took promises to ym selves wh did not belong to them, of some she observed they belong to the church — others to the Jews — such & such to the Gentiles &c & then begun to blame the presumption of those who apply them to their own souls! Such a thought had never entered my heart before — I knew tis certain the words were primary spoke on such and such an occation but the Lord had led me to beleive it was as a letter written to every soul so far as they were willing to receive it by faith. but from the above conversation I was unhinged, I knew not what to chuse or what to refuse — so yt being cast into reasonings I lost all my love ~~of~~ for reading the Scriptures & sunk into a very cold & lifless state. when I was twelve years old we went to Bath for 3 month, here I met with many dissipations & had I may truly say no religion at all, only when in the midst of the Ball room I used to think if I knew were to find the methodists or any who would shew me how to please god — I would tear off all my fine things throw them on one side & the other, & run thro ye fire to them. & sometimes I thought if ever I am my own Mistress I will spend half my day in working for the poor & half in prayer.

when I was about 13 the things of God begun to return wh more power on my mind. one day my sister visiting Mrs Lefevre found her truly awaken^d & in earnest to save her soul. She told me this news with great Delight. for as our parents had no suspition of her being a Methodist we saw the Lord had open^d

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Open^d us a door into that Christian Liberty we so much longed after; and at her house we got opportunities of conversation with Religious persons w^h a good deal strengthen^d our hands

tho: we often said to each other — these methodists dont quite answer our expectation, tho: our time is short with them they lose much of it before they begin to converse with us about our souls the appostles would not have done so — but we must not form our judgment by the Rich let us wait till we get acquainted with some of the poor among them, perhaps they will be right methodists & more like the first Christians.

Sometimes that promise was brought powerfully to my mind "whatsoever ye shall ask beleiving ye shall receive." then thought I, I may ask all the grace I will — I may ask power never to offend my god again — faith sprung up in my soul, and I was much drawn out in prayer for holiness, till one day speaking of it to a perticular person she raised many objections to the thought of all sin being removed from my heart. I felt it as cold water thrown on a new kindled fire and the wings of my faith seem'd clipt — & fearing least I was wrong, I prayed the Lord to answer for himself by his word, so taking up the Bible with much prayer I open'd it and emediately cast my eyes on these words "behold I am the Lord the god of all flesh, is any thing too hard for me"? it came with power; my heart as it were leap^d for joy & I cry^d out now I will wrestle and I shall prevail.

Chap^r 2^d Towards the End of the following winter there was a confermation at St pauls, and my father was agreeable I should be confirmed. this was a very rousing ordinance to me, for some time before I had felt how unworthy I was of it, how unfit thus sollemnly to Devote my self to God by renewing that covernant I had so often Broak. I read the order of confirmation with the ministration of Baptism

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Baptism over and over and beseech^d ~~the Lord~~ my God to give me power to keep the Charge of the Lord faithfully. for some ~~weeks~~ months after; every time I approach^d the Lords table I had a very peculiar Since of his presence & sometimes it seem^d to me as if the Lord Jesus did from his own hand give me the Sacred Emblems of his Body & blood.

But the next year my mind again wanderd after many things & tho: I taste now & then a little of the Loving kind=ness of the lord, yet in the general I was greatly under the power of my own will. pride & preverseness got many times the upper hand, & there was nothing in my life or conversation which could adorn the gospel. but I did not then see my conduct in that light. while our Love is small our perseption in Spiritual thing is but very dark — alas I thought I walk^d as a Christian — but now that I see so much more of the holiness of God — I also desern more fully the depth of my fall, & am astonish^d that either God or man bore with me. well might my dear mother not love me ~~as~~ ~~much~~ as the rest of her Children — for I was not only more dull & indolent in every thing I had to learn — but I was proud insolent & disobedient; & such a sight I have been per=mitted to have of my former life that I realy think every disobedient act to my parents, or unkind word to my Brother or Sister, or haughty answer to a Servant has at one time or another been brought before me & drawn as it were drops of Blood from my heart, how perfectly do I feel these words my own, "sink down my soul, sink lower still — Lye level with the Dust." one Night after spending sometime in prayer, I cast my Eyes on a book Mrs Lefevre had given me and

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and read these words – "I'll look into my Saviour's Breast –
away sad Doubt anxious Care
mercy is all thats written there."

Jesus Blood thro Earth & Skys –
mercy free Boundless mercy crys".

I saw as it were the Father of Mercy opening his arms to receive me, & on that Boundless love I had liberty to cast my whole Soul. –

I was more and more thankfull for my union with Mrs Lefevre, & Experienced in her the greatest Comfort of my life. about this Season my ever honour'd Grandfather & Grandfather were taken from us. He was one of the Excellent of the Earth his life in many respects was remarkable & Singular. in his last illness he delighted much in these words "my Sheep hear my voice, I know them & they follow me" &c he was 79 & had lived with my Grandmother forty five years in a union hard to be met with. He was a pattren in many respects; plain in his Dress, mortified in his food. & Strictly Conscencious in all his Expences. when many dishes were on his table he Scarcely Eat of any thing but mutton & that for many years because he beleived it most Condicise to his health. but his love & Charity to the poor was uncommon. he Esteem'd it a reproach to any man to say he died very rich adding 'tis too plain a mark he hath not made a good use of his income".

one day upon Change a Gentleman sd &c who was by him said to another "Sir John – I Give you joy they tell me you have Compleated your hundred thousand pound" – the other reply'd "I hope yet to Duble it before I die". – my Grandfather turning Short said, "then Sir John you are not worthy of it". –

once being at a lords table he observed them drinking to Excess, & Conversing in a very Unchristian manner – at first he try'd to turn the Conversation but the torrant being too Strong

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to Shery he rose up & leaning over the Back of his Chair he gave them a Sollemn reproof joined to an affectionate warning & then left the Company. and I have been with him in his chariot when he hath suddenly Stop'd it to reprove profain Swearing in the road.

My Grandmother was a woman of an uncommonly ~~soft~~ sweet temper & having acquired a good deal of Skill in physick She was such a friend to the poor that they look'd on her as a mother a Nurse & a Counceller. when my Grand=father had been Dead about ~~3~~ 4 month. She dreamt one night he came to her & Standing by the bed side, said "She Should come to him Shortly, till then his happiness was not as compleat as it w'd be — & added Study the Scriptures - Study the Scriptures in them ye think ye have Eternal life." from this time she apply'd to y'm Daily in a manner ~~[illegible]~~ Superior to what She had done before (tho: She had always ~~ye highest~~ a high veneration for the word of God) about ~~2~~ three weeks after She said to us one day "air that room I will go into it that I may die in the bed M'r Brewster died in." from the night She did go into it ~~&~~ She came out no more for She died within the week. as She did not appear any worse then usual She was at first thought to be in no danger & ~~He~~ Said herself 2 or 3 times: "what a Blessing I am dying without pain — I have no more then I can very well bear."

Chap — 4'd

From this time we begun to get rather more liberty and one day as my Sister was on a visit at mrs Lefevres Mr Romain came in and begun to Speak of the Sinfullness of of attending the play house — She lissen'd with great earnestness to all he said — w'ch repeating to me on her return, it was as a nail in a Sure place and I begun to cry for power to Stand to the light I now discovered. a few month after my Sister

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Sister Married, by wh I was left alone. I must observe to this time my parents had very little suspition of our having any intercourse with the methodists but thought when ye above mention'd Servant was put away and our Books taken from us that the impression had worn off. but now I saw the time was come, when I must confess Christ before men if I would wish him to confess me before his Father and the holy Angels. I consulted some of my serious freinds about the play house, but they said, "were you older we should know what to advise, but as you are but Sixteen; if they insist on your going we dont see how you can help it." this answer did not fully satisfy me I was much distrest both ways, I saw the duty I ow'd to an absolute command from my parents in a very strong light — & on the other hand I rememberd that obedience was to be in the Lord. I sought light by prayer & endeavour'd to examine the question on both sides. but the more I search'd the clearer it appear'd to me I must not comply. the play house had a tendency to weaken every Christian temper & to strengthen all that was contrary — to represent vice under the false colours of Vertue — & to lead in every respect into the Spirit of the World — of wh the apostle declares, 'the freindship of this world is Enmity with God.' James Cap 3 ver: . when the time came and my obedient compliance was required. I beg'd to be left at home — on a refusal I laid open my whole heart to my Father assuring him I would not willingly be disobedient in any thing ~~unless were~~ unless were Constience made it appear my duty. we conversed on the subject with great freedom, for my dear Father was a man of deep reason, calmness and

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and Condesention) he reply^d "Child your auguments prove too much, & therefore are not Conclusive; if what you say is true then all places of Diversion, all dress & Company nay all agreable liveliness, & the whole Spirit of the World is Sinfull." I imbraced the opportunity & said "Sir I see it as such, & therefore am determined no more to be Conformed to its Customs fashions or maxims": this was a Season of great trial but the Lord Stood by me glory be to his holy name.

I daily discern^d a great difference between my manner of Life and that w^{ch} the Bible describes as y^e Life of a Christian. & I had often Strong desires to be wholy Given to the Lord. much opposition I met with from having declared my Sentiments and what was very cutting to me I was often debarr^d from the pleasure of seeing my freind M^{rs} Lefevre, this was the Consequence I much feard of being open: but was throughly Convinced, if I love my freind more then god's law, I shall never know the power of true religion. it is my natural temper to be very anxious about any one I love & to fix too much of my Confidence in them, this was the Case with m^{rs} Lefevre — I saw & lamented it beseeching the Lord to take away all Idolity out of my affection & give me to Love her as I ought.

I dream^d one night I was in a Church and saw written on the wall in letters of Gold these words "thou Shallt have no other gods but me"; while I was looking on it — I saw her name wrote under it — I was Surprised, and presently beheld the following Line: "If this is your god w^h[ence] then am I?" I awaked with a deep Conviction I had placed

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placed too much Confidence on an arm of flesh. I knew it was the voice of God by this mark, a great Sweetness accompanied ~~me~~ the reproof, and I have always observed that was the method the Lord used towards me, he held me up wth one hand while he Smote me with the other.

This was in the Spring 56 ~~on~~ the 29th of June the Same year I Spent with Mrs Lefevre we had a profitable day, I found my heart very open and told her I believed I could Sacrifice her to the will of God." She reply'd "nothing you could have Said would have given me more Sattisfaction, for a long time Something has wisper'd me the thread of my life was nearly Spun out — I have no Clogs upon my Chariot Wheels but my greatest pain was for you who have already So Many trials Surrounding you". This was her last farewell for three days after I received a Message that She was ~~[illegible]~~ Seized with a Sudden illness & was in great danger. my Mother kindly permitted me to visit her, but I found her on the borders of Eternity into wch (after Expressing wth great difficulty "I have Comforts indeed) her happy Spirit took its flight. as my time was limitted I was return'd home were I received the news of her death. I went ~~out~~ into a grove that was in our garden to pour out my Soul before the Lord — but what may Seem Strange I was not permitted to feel at that time Scarce any pain, for the Lord met me with these words; wch Sprung up as living Water in my Soul —

"my Star by night my Sun by day
my Spring of Life when parch'd wth Drought
my Wine to Chear my Bread to Stay
my Strength my Sheild my Safe abode
my robe before the Throne of God."—

I felt

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I felt the Lord Jesus did answer all these Characters to my Soul & by faith I beheld him as my robe before the throne of God. but this peacefull frame ~~of mind~~ did not last Long, some snares presented before me w^ch dissipated my mind & cooled the fervour of my affections. in this spirit I went to London in the winter. I was now about 18. as I had not yet had a clear Conviction to thro: aside dress while in my fathers house — I continued in my appearance like the Company I converse with, only did not go with them to pub=lick devertions. and this winter I began to gain favor in their Eyes & felt my self in great danger of being carried down the Stream. ~~and~~ but that thought struck an alarm into my Soul & caused me to look about for help — I cry^d to the Lord to bring me acquainted with some of the Excellent of the Earth that I might learn to walk in the narrow way w^ch Leads to life & glory, and into w^ch I Saw I was scarcely Entered. one day I heard a Conversation Concerning an Extraordinary work among the methodists, that some of them spoke of such a chang being wrought on their will and affections that they found that word to be accomplish^d ~~"th~~ "old things are ~~done~~ past away and all things are become new!" ~~that the Change~~ the remember=ance of that text "is any thing too hard for me"? Came with fresh power to my Soul, & some encouraging promises did spring up in my mind — and made me see that we might have all if we would persevere in prayer. I told my serious friends (who were not joined to the methodists) if they could procure me an hours Conversation with one of their preis

1 P

[I still esteem it a great favour] Women for I longed to see ~~some~~ any one who would tell me of a deeper religion then I had yet known, ~~&~~ for I saw my self surrounded with snares both from within & without & often did I think with tears on there words "See where o'er Deserts waste I err

& neither food nor feeder have
nor fold nor place of refuge near
~~For~~ While no man cares my soul to save"!

Chapr 5th

at this time I was acquainted with a gentleman in some sence religious tho' I fear not deeply so — he professed much affection for me & my religious friends advised me to think of him as it ~~would probably~~ was likely to be very agreeable to my parents & would open me a door into more liberty ~~as to the~~ with respect to the means of grace. but I cannot say he was agreeable to me, neither my understanding nor ~~or~~ affection could fully approve the thing. yet ~~yet~~ it hurt me by imploying my mind in debates & reasonings sometimes I thought it would be of the Lord at others I could not see into it at all. I ~~now~~ then received a message from Miss Furley (now Mrs Downes) that on such a day Mrs Crosby would be at her house — I went to meet her in the Spirit of prayer and Expectation. She simply related what god had done for her soul the words she spake were clothed with power, my convictions of the nesesity of holiness were ~~mean~~ much increased — as to the above mentioned affair of the gentleman it ~~it~~ was quite wiped out of my mind as in a moment — & the prospect of a life wholy devoted to God drank up every other — in a few hours I returned home to our country house on Epping forrest. but such a sweet sence of God's presence & the greatness of his love, & willingness

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willingness to serve to the Uttermost, remain'd on my mind that if I but thought on the word Holiness ~~[illegible]~~ a Devoted Life, or of the adorable name of Jesus my heart seem'd to take fire in an instant — & my Desires were more intensely set on God then ever I had found before.

a few days after I wrote the following Lines to Mrs Crosby

Forrest House
May 17 1757: The Lord hath been indeed mercifull above all I can ask or think, I am more Drawn to prayer, & find a more earnest pursuit of Holiness then ever, but what most stirs me up is — I seem to hear the Lord Calling to Me in those words "Depart ye, Depart ye Go ye out hence touch not the unclean thing, be ye clean that bear the Vessels of the Lord."

I have within this day or two seen the ~~my~~ path ~~very~~ clear in w^h^ I ought to walk — I am not to think & scheem about a maried Life, for ~~I am to abide at present or I am~~ my present Light is to abide as I am — but the Lord seems to Call me out to more activety insomuch that I am ready to cry out Lord what wilt thou have me to do? — I want to be given up both Soul & Body to serve them that are in Christ. and as soon as the Lord has prepared me for it and Let me at Liberty, my firm resolution is to be wholy given up to the church in any way hes pleases; & tho it please God I have not ~~my~~ Living to work for, that is no reason my hands should be idle. I would be as those discribed in Timothy: if she hath brought up Children, if She have Lodged Strangers if She have wash'd the Saints feet & dillegently follow'd after every Good

1P

God work. 41 I can hardly express with what power there words "lodged Strangers & brought up Children, wash'd the saints feet &c" would come to my mind, it seem'd to me the Lord had plan'd out all my way & sent my wish'd to a dity I So to walk as sh'd not steal my self from his ~~Divine~~ Designs Chap 6

The end of this summer brought me a great trial, my parents were going to Scarborough & my mother offer'd me to go with them if I would do as they did and not bring a reproach on them in a strange place. this seem'd a very reasonable request but alas, I could not comply; for the spirit of the world was as contrary to that of Christ in Scarborough as in London. I beg'd to be left at home or with my sister — but it was appointed, for me to spend most of my time at an uncles in London they were exceeding kind & let me have much liberty yet I suffer'd much, first from being ~~so much~~ with strangers a thing to me peculiarly painfull. another circumstance also aded to my trial I had never before had an opportunity for a constant attendance on the means: and I greatly fear'd abusing my talent. one of my acquaintance also being rather imprudent prest me never to be absent from any meeting or preaching. by this means I am sincible I went too far. I walk'd about more then my strength could bear, having been scarce ever permitted to go out of our own ground but in a carriage. but above all I am pain'd when I think how little of ~~a~~ christian prudence appear'd in almost any part of my ~~Conduct~~ Walk, so that the kind family in w^ch I was receiv'd could not but blame & condemn a conduct w^ch tho: the motive was upright was in its self ~~often~~ sometimes wrong.

1P

=mony. During this Season I cultivated an acquain=
=tance wh I trust to all Eternity to praise the Lord in
behalf of. it was with Mrs Sarah Ryan who (with
a pious woman named Mary Clark) lived in a little
House in Christophers alley moorfields they both possess'd
the Spirit of the primitive Church in an eminent degree
a few of the most lively Souls in the London Society were
frequently gathered there. the more I saw of that family
the more I was convinced Christ had yet his pure Church
below, & often thought my self with the 120 while with them in their Company
it was at her house Mrs Crosby boarded & whenever I
was from home this was the place of my residence and
truly I found it to be a little Bethel.

The more I conversed with Mrs Ryan the more I
discern'd of ye Glory of God Breaking forth from within
and felt a strong attraction to consider her as the friend
of my Soul, I told her the past Sins, follys, & mercys
of my life and received from her own mouth a particu=
=lar account of hers.+ ~~wh account is~~

The time now drew nigh for my parents return

+ Note wh account is at the End of this work wh her Diary

mercy. — During this season I cultivated an acquaintance w^th I hope to all eternity to preserve for. her name was Sarah Ryan She and a pious Soul mary Clark lived together in the Spirit of the primative Church mrs Crosby became chiefly with them. & at that house (whenever I co^d get from home) I took up my residence & found it a little Bethel. the more I conversed with Mrs Ryan the more I discerned the Image of God Shining out from the Center, & felt a strong attraction to Consider her as the friend of my Soul. —

I had frequent oppertunities of observing her life & Conversation, I told her all the past sins & follys of my life & received from her mouth the following account of hers. —

1 Part.

Mrs Ryan

after. ~~During the season of my parents being at Scarborough I conversed much with her and Mrs Geary & found their conversation both instructive & animating.~~ ~~The time now drew near for their~~ my parents return. & I went home to receive them, the aunt I had been with carried me there in her own carriage & parted with me with much affection. the Lord re=ward her ~~[illegible]~~ & my Uncle in their ~~family~~ own children for all the kindness they shew'd unto me. I before observed I had used more exercise then my ~~Constitution~~ Constitution was well fitted for & having at this time a great cold a fever was coming sweetly upon me tho: I did not know what I ail'd my self. however I held up the best I could — my mother was much surpris'd when she saw me appear so ill — & laid it all to my religion — I think I held up till the next day when I was scarse sincible thro: the fever: ~~[illegible]~~ I was order'd to go to bed — but she did not know with how much difficulty that order was attended I could scarse keep on my feet while I got up stairs tho: I held with both hands to keep me from falling from top to Bottom. when I got to a chair in my room what thankfullness did I feel — after a few moments rest — I got the bed turn'd down — & by degrees my cloaths of, tho: I remember I could not recolect were to find my night cap so laid down without. but how shall I discribe the posture of my mind — Distracted

1 part

distracted by the fever — torn by fears & temtations — & stript of those friends who at this time could have understood & comforted me. The loss of mrs Lefevre now returned on my mind as for those with whom I had lately taken sweet counsel I saw them removed far from me. my dear parents were not aware of the nature of my illness wh was as the apothecary afterwards told them a strong nervous fever — they thought it all arose from some trouble of mind I wd not own — & told me one day if I did not rouse my self out of that low state my head shd be blistered & I shd be shut up in a dark room". my father being present ~~in the room~~ I said "will you put me in a madhouse papa?" he said no I wont let them send you to a mad house but you must be shut up at home if you dont strive against this lowness mr Brisco says you have no pulse at all he never saw a patient so low!" my mind was greatly deprest I cd find no comfort ~~of~~ from any kind either in gd or earthly things. one day as I lay reflecting on my situation & weeping before the Ld on account of the darkness I felt on my mind — thro: a window opposite the foot of my bed I discernd an unusual Brightness (yet not dazling) & from that bright cloud came a voice so powerfull that I can only say I heard it with every faculty of soul & body: it penetrated me thro & thro: with these words "thou shall walk with me in White"! the answer seemd to come from my heart as independent of myself "Lord how can that be, seeing I am not worthy?" it

1 P

it was spoke to me again: "but thou shall walk wth me in White for I will make thee worthy!" this was followed by these words: "I will throughly purge away thy dross & take away all thy Sin!" "Everlasting Life is won — Glory is on Earth begun!" ~

To this day I have the most lively remembrance of that manifestation & in the darkest moments I have since past through could never doubt its being the voice of God. my illness was long & attended with many trials. before my recovery Mrs Ryan was removed from London to Bristol to be housekeeper of the Room there & much did I pray the Lord to point out some way for our being brought together again. I was now about 19 years of age. ~

Chapter 6

Sometime after my parents having thoughts of going to Bath for a season — offered me to spend that time at Bristol as I was thought to be consumptive. I gladly imbraced the offer as a mercifull providence. ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible] dear [illegible]~~

1P

[redacted]. — I was at Bristol 7 weeks were mrs Dennes she shewed me much kindness, indeed I was in some since committed to her care by my parents who had for years been acquainted with her family.

I spent much of my time with mrs Ryan & Clark & I trust in some degree partook of their spirit.

after my return home I clearly discern'd I still conformed too much in my appearance to the spirit & fashions of the world. yet after this I had one more struggle. I plainly saw the throwing of dress would be to my relations a great trial, — I loved my parents, & it hurt me to disoblige them — I sought for arguments to ~~quench~~ quench that little spark of light wh was ~~kindled~~ kindling in my soul. conceiving they could not see in my light — & knowing obedience to parents was one of the first duties — I did so far quench it that I put on again many of the things I had thrown off. — my acquaintance took much notice of me, & I was so affraid of losing their good opinion that I had no power to reprove sin, or even to refrain

1 P

refrain from joining in light or trifling Conversa=
=tion when in Company — but I soon discern'd the danger
Consequent on their approval & therefore determined
to Weigh well what was the most likely to please fa
& by that to abide be the Consequence what it would.

I pray'd for light, & saw clearly — plainness of dress
& behaviour best became a Christian, & that for
the following reasons ——————

1st The apostle expressly forbids Women professing god=
=liness, to have their adorning in ~~Ap~~ apparel, alowing them
no other ornament then that of a meek and quiet Spirit.

2ly I saw the reasonableness of the Command — & proved
it good for a proud heart to wear the plain and Modest
Livery of gods Children

3ly It tended to open my mouth; for when like the world
I appear'd in Babelonish garments I had its Esteem; & knew not
how to part with it — but when I shewed by my appearance
that I considerd my self as a Stranger an foreigner, None
can Imajin but by trying what an influence it has on our whole
Conduct: & what a fence it is to keep us from sinking into
the Spirit of it. for there is no Medeum, they who ~~embrace~~ are Conform
to the ~~Customs~~ Customs Fashions & Maxim of the world, must
imbrace the Spirit also; & they shall find the Esteem they
seek: ~~for~~ for the World will love its own, but at the same
time let them remember also that word "the friend=
=ship of this World is Enmity with God." ——

4ly I saw my self as a Steward who must render account
for every tallant: & that it ~~apps~~ was my priviledge to

4

1P

to have ye Smile of God on every moment of my time or penny of money I laid out.

5ly I saw clearly that the helping my fellow Creatures in their need was both more rational & more pleasant than Spending my Substance on Superfluitys., & as I am Commanded to love my Neighbour as my Self — & to Consider all done to the household of faith as done to ~~myself~~ unto Christ — Surely I ought not only to Suffer my Superfluety to give way to their necesety — but also (as occa-tion may require) my Nesesity to their Extremity.

6 but it is not only the Sallant of ~~[illegible]~~ Money but of time wh is thrown away by Conformity to the World Entangling us in a thousand little Engagements wh a Dress interely plain Cuts thro at once.

7ly the End usially proposed by young persons in their Dress is Such as a devoted Soul would abominate: a heathen may Say ~~[illegible]~~ it will promote my being Comfortably Settled ~~[illegible]~~ in Life; but I believe the Lord appoints the bounds of our habitation — & that no good thing Shall be withheld from those who walk uprightly. I have therefore nothing to do but to commend my Self to God by holy obedience & leave Every Step of my life to be Guided by his will — I will therefore make it my rule to be clean & neat but in ye plainest things according to my Station. & whenever I thought on the Subject these words would pass thro my mind wh power — for So the Holy Women of old adorn'd them Selves

10

themselves. as soon as I saw my way clearly I ventured to open my mind to my Father concerning Dress as I had done before with regard to publick places. intreating him to bear with me while I endeavoured to shew him my reason for refusing to be conform'd to the Customs Fashions & maxiams of the world. ~~he was of a very condescending temper &~~ he heard me with great pateence & as I loved him tenderly it came very near me to contradict him. my trials now increased daily for I was oft perplext to know how far to conform & how far to resist — I feard on the one hand disobedience to parents — & on ye other disobedience to God.

my dear Mother had sometimes exprest a belief that it would be better for the family if I were removed from it (& it was a very natural thought for as she believed me to have imbraced wrong sentiments she was undoubtedly in the right to endeavour to preserve my Brothers from ym who were younger then me) but yet she did not see it clear to bid me go — but rather wish'd me to go off on my own ~~account~~ accord. some things therefore were at this season rougher then at any other. but let the Furnace be never so hot, I did not dare come out of it till the Lord brought me out. indeed could there have been an amicable agreement between us — and they had freely given me leave to go & live else where I wd gladly have accepted it — & offen times I made distant proposals towards it — but with this they never saw it good to concur providence overruling it for wise ends ——

1 P

Ends. & to run away from my fathers house I could not think of. I was now turn'd a few month of twenty one & had ~~about~~ a ~~hundred pr year~~ Small Fortune of my own — & I saw my self on ye verge of a material change, that my Father's house would not long be a refuge for me was easy to discern, but in what manner I sh^d be removed or what trials I might yet have to go thro: I could not tell, the continual language of my heart was "Lord undertake for me my soul is oppress'd — Still there must thy Counsel shew for still I know not what to do"! ~

Chapter 9

One day my Father said to me; there is a particular promise I require of you, that is, will you never on any occation either now or hereafter, attempt to make your Brothers what you call a Christian"! I answer looking to the Lord — "I think Sir I dare not consent to that"! he reply'd then you force me to put you out of ye house"! yes Sir said I according to your view of things I acknowlege it, & if I may but have your approval no situation will be disagreeable"! he reply'd "there are many things in your present situation w^h must be I sh^d think very uncomfortable"! — I acknowledged the truth of that, and if he would but say he approved it I w^d take a lodging w^h I had heard of at M^r Hales in Hoxton Square & remove thereto — but that it was not any suffering w^h w^d incline me to leave him but by his free consent"! he reply'd with some emotion "I dont know you have ever disobey'd me wilfully in your life but only in these

1P

these Fancys, & my children shall always be welcome to a home in my House"! as I could not but dream a seperation would take place (tho' I knew not how nor when). I judged it most prudent to take the Lodging that in case I sh^d be suddenly removed I might have a home to go to w^h I prefer'd to the going into any friends house as a visiter. I also hir'd a sober Girl to be ready when ever I might want her. informing my mother one day of the steps I had taken she gave me two beds one for my self & a little one for my maid. & seem'd to converse on it in a way of approval - yet something seem'd to hold us on both sides from bringing it to the point.

For the next two month I suffer'd much - my mind was exercised with many a tender feelings ——— one day my Mother sent me word "I must go home to my Lodging that night"! - I went down to dinner after w^h it was dark & my lodging ~~[illegible]~~ a good way of — they said nothing on the subject —— & I could not get my self up to begin it — so that afternoon and evening passed without my taking any step towards a remove but not without my feeling ——— next day as I was sitting in my room I received again the same message ——— during dinner nothing was spoke — when it was over I knew not w^t to do — I was torn many ways — I thought if they go out without saying any thing to me I cannot go — & if they sh^d never tell me to come & see them again, how shall I bear it ——— my mind was prest down by sorrow

1p

Sorrow, & my Spirits Broke by long Suspence — just as they were going out my Mother said "if you will, the Coach when it has Set us down — may Carry you home to your Lodging" my Father added "& we shall be glad to see you to dinner next tuesday". This was some relief — I was very Silent, & when the Coach return'd I order'd my trunk into it — & Strugling with my self as well as I were able took a kind of leave of each of the servants as they stood on a Row with tears, in my way out of the House. and about 8 oclock reach'd my lodging. it Consisted of two Rooms as yet unfurnish'd without fire Candle or any Conveniency, the people of the House I had never seen before only knew them by Character to be Sober persons. I borrow'd a table and Candlestick & the Window Seat served me as a chear, when Betty my ~~door~~ door I began to muse on my present Situation —

I am said I but young only in my 22 year — I am Cast out of my Fathers house ——— I knew the heart of a Stranger — but alas how much more of it may I yet have to prove. I cry'd to the Lord and found a Sweet Calm overspread my Spirit, & could in a measure act faith on those words, "when thy Father & thy mother forsake thee the Lord shall take thee up", when the following reflections arose in my mind

I am now Exposed to the world — what Snares may be gathering around me — I have a weak understanding & but little grace — therefore ~~before~~ now before any Snare

1 P

Snare has intangle'd me I will form a plan for my future Conduct & indeavour to walk thereby. I will not receive visits from Single men, and in order to avoid it more Easily I will not get acquainted with any: I will as much as possible refrain from going into any Company were they are. 2d I will Endeavour to Lay out my time by rule that I may know Each hour what is to be done — neverthe less I will Cheerfully Submit to have these rules brock or overturn'd whenever the providence of God thought fit So to do. and 3d I will Endeavour to keep in my Eye the Example of Jesus Christ & to Lead a mortified Life, remembering he Came not to be minister'd unto but to minister. —

There is much in the prejudice of Education, to persons who have been brought up rather in High Life, the being removed from a parents habitation Seems very awfull. I look'd on my Self as lying under a deep reproach — & was ready to tremble at the thought of being thrust out from under the athority & protec=tion of my Fathers Roof. but I remember'd that word he that loveth Father or mother more then me is not worthy of me. — My Maid being now Come, had Light a fire in ye other Room, & borow'd a few things of ye family — She beg'd me to Come into it as the Night was very Cold. & now my Captivety Seem'd turning every moment, that thought I am brought out from ye world — I have nothing to do, but to be Holy both

1P

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both in body and Spirit." fill^d me with Consolation thankfullness overflow^d my heart, & such a Spirit of Peace & Content was pour^d into my Soul, that all about me seem^d a little heaven. +

~~before the Lord made me to wander from my Fathers House, A perticuler person has often upbraided me with these words: Ah you will soon find the loss of your Fathers House with many good rooms on a flower when you have~~

+ Some bread with Rank Salt Butter, & water to drink made me so Comfortable a meal y^t I co^d truly say I eat my meat with gladness and singleness of heart. as the bed was not put up - I laid that Night almost on the Ground, & the windows having no Shutters and a Bright moon light night, y^e Sweet Solemnity there of well agreed with the Tranquility my Spirit felt.

I had now daily more & more Cause for praise, I was acquainted with many of the Excellent of the Earth & my delight was in them - yet was I not without the Cross, for every time I went to See my dear parents what I felt when toward Night I rose up to go away, cannot well be Imagin^d. not that I wish to abide there - but there was Something in bidding y^m farewell under whose roof I had always lived as used to Affect me much - tho; I saw the Wise and Gracious hand of God in all - who had by this means Set me free for his own Service - & from my heart

1P

heart I thank^d Him as the gracious Author — & them as the profitable instruments of doing me so great a Good.

My Mother was frequently giving me one little thing or another — and every renewed mark of kindness made the wound to Bleed afresh when I considered my ways must be of another fashion from what they would approve.

Chap 9.

There was in the year 61 & 62 a very great revival among the ~~Brethren~~ Society both in London and many other places. and such an earnest desire was stirred up in many hearts after full Salvation, that I may say prayer was made without ~~[illegible]~~ ceasing by the faith-full that the glory of God might go forth as Bright-ness and his Salvation as a Lamp that burneth. there prayers were answered in a very powerfull manner. the Spirit was pour^d out on some in such a degree as can hardly be conceived but by those who felt the Divine influence. Not only Mr Wesley and Mr Maxfield were in an uncommon manner blest in their preaching — but many simple persons both men & Women ~~are~~ were lively Harbingers of the ~~coming~~ approaching ~~of Jesus~~ pentecost & cry^d aloud, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. At this season these words of the Hymn were literally fullfill^d ___________________

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fulfilled —

Jesus lo, I come to thee
I wait to be sent forth
if thy Spirit send forth me
a Worm shall shake the Earth. —

The mighty power of god was seen on every side, Christ was held out as a Compleat Saviour, and ~~and~~ represented to the Eye of faith as crying out on this Feast Day "if any man thirst let him come unto me & drink, & he that beleeveth on me out of his fullness shall flow Rivers of Living Water." — these Rivers did indeed flow from heart to heart. the gift of faith was given

to many, not only for themselves but others. a clear Light shone on that truth, they that are in Xt are new creatures — old things are passed away & all become new. that the blood of Jesus Xt would cleanse from all sin — & that the whole soul with every power should be so brought into subjection to Christ as to feel I live not but Xt liveth in me. Some drops of this river began to fall on me also, the means of grace were as Marrow to my soul — & often these words were apply'd "if thou canst beleeve all things are possible to him ——— him

1p

him that believeth" but I could not beleive so as to give up my whole heart to God — I knew him mine — but other things had yet life in me tho not dominion over me. I was now assured the Blessing of Sanctification (or in other words of an heart truly renewed) could not be received but by simple & naked faith ~~(by simple I mean taking God at his word without reasoning — by naked I mean purpose every dependence but Xt alone)~~ & my souls secret groand out its desire in these words ~~—one~~

That mighty faith on me Bestow
wh cannot ask in vain
wh holds & will not let thee go
till I my suit obtain."

one day as a few of us were praying together at Bro Gilfords we were so drawn out that we were I think four hours, when I really thought it had not been above one, & this was frequently the case with us. one day as I was at a meeting for prayer at a friends house when we had been some time — I seemd as if I had lost all, deep discouragment seized my spirit but I wrestled on — & seemd in an agony to love God with all my heart. Brother Gilford was praying for me I felt a calmness overspread my spirit — & faith laid hold on Jesus as my full saviour — I said in my heart thy will be done thy will be done & in that I felt my rest. in the same moment Bro Gilford changed his prayer into praise telling the Lord he had heard & answerd, he had set me at liberty & now he wd praise him

~~Note~~ by simple I mean taking god at his word without reasoning
+ by naked — I mean stript of every other dependence but Xt alone

1P

praise him. this surprised me as I had not given ye least sign by either word or motion of what I had felt within. then concluding his prayer with ye act of praise. he ask^d me how I found myself — I answer^d I could not tell but I found the Love of the Will of God had brought a peace into my soul ~~[illegible]~~ but that I did not feel joy — only a rest in ye thought the Lord Reigneth & his will shall be done. — as I was walking home I found the presence of the Lord to be with me — he said "round thee and beneath are spread the everlasting arms"! I felt they were so & my faith seem^d to gather strength continually. yet for some days I was much exercised with temptation & continually accused that I had thought, said, or done something amiss. but after a little time I found a more solid rest, & sensibly felt my will and affections were fixt on god & most powerfully was I penetrated with these words "ye shall as your Right my Righteousness claim

my Righteousness wearing & cleans^d by my Blood

bold shall ye appear in the presence of God."

one night I waked much in the presence of god — with these words! thou shall call thy walls salvation & thy gates praise"! & that promise dwelt on my mind, "in returning & rest shall ye be saved, in quietness & confidence shall be thy strength."! I believe and am assured what I felt at this season was a low degree of pure love, or what we call a clean heart. tho, it was but in a very small degree yet it did evidence

1.

1P

Evidence its Self by a mighty Change. I had many temtations — & no great joy — yet did I never feel any thing Contrary to love — and in the temtations I felt a great Difference — Satan never attempted to draw my affections to any thing — neither to move me to anger, for there I could have answerd him — there haut nothing in me. but I was fulled with Such a Since of Sorrow as I cannot Expres — fear of diving to fall from grace & Sin against God tore me off as one on a rack for mercies, then a turn of the Eye by faith to Jesus w^d make my Enemies flee. another Cause of Sorrow was — Something I am at a loss to Discribe: but it Seemd as if most Exquisit feelings were opend in my Soul Such as I never knew before if I saw or heard of the Consiquences of Sin I was ready to Die — for instance if in the Street I saw a child ill used or Slited by the person who Seem'd to have the Care of it, or a poor person Sweating under an uncommonly heavy burden — yea if I saw an horse or dog oppresst or Wounded twas more then I could bear I seem'd to Groan & travel in birth as it were for the whole Creation. yet notwithstanding all these painfull feelings I had a Solid peace I always felt I had Committed my all to Jesus — & I did live on his

1P

his faithfullness. as I observed before anger seem'd in my soul to know its place no more — neither did I find any attachment to creature or thing but such as reflected from the will of God. such a sence of purity dwelt on my soul as I can hardly discribe — indeed I did feel & often think of those words "unto the pure all things are pure"! I sometimes said in my self I did not care if my Breast was as a Window & if every thought was without covering to man as it is to God —

~~the language of my soul was —~~

~~"my inmost thoughts I here expose to view~~
~~for what has shame with innocence to do"?~~

a little degree of heavenly Wisdom was also let down into my heart. being fixt on a solid Rock I was not so easily shaken, & those words were powerfully apply "thou shall not be affraid for any evil tidings for thy heart standeth fast beleiving in the Lord"

but above all I felt such a simplicity, such a hanging on the Lord Jesus — self seem'd anihilated, & Jesus was my all, the nothing into wh. I felt my self shrunk & the great salvation I seem'd to posess in Jesus was such as I cannot ~~discribe~~ Explain. ~~Except in the moments of [illegible]~~ — I used often to say it appears to me that unbelief cannot find a place in my soul to set its foot upon — & indeed it

1P

it Could not for Slavish fear seem'd quite Content.
I could say I live not but Christ liveth in me &
the life w^ch^ I now live I live by faith in the Son of God.
I was truly Nothing & that all my salvation Come
thro: faith in the Son of God was my souls delight
Could I have been saved any other way I would not
have accepted of it. how often was that word in my
mouth & heart "Having done all by faith I stand
& Give the praise o Lord to thee
thy Holy arm thy own Right hand
hath got thy self the victory"!

all this time the Lord kept me as to outward things
like an infant on its mothers arm. I put in prac
-tice my first resolutions & had no other thought
but of devoting my self to God in a single life; only
I remember I sometimes thought were I to marry
mr Fletcher would he not be rather an help then
a hinderance to my soul, but it was only a thought
& arose from what some friends had said to me about
it.

as I desired to be all the Lords & to spend all I had
to his glory; I sometimes carried it too far - & did not
alow my self quite what was needfull as my exercise
was greater then I had been used to. I was seized with
a complaint in my Bowels - I thought if I had some
Spice boild in water & port wine with it it w^d^ help
me - but I was unwilling to get it - however my

1P

my heavenly Father took care for that he knows wt we have need of before we ask — for at that very time a relation call^d & brought me a quantity of Spice for a present, & the very next day my Father call^d in his Chariot & brought me a Hamper of Port wine. for neither of them knowing any thing of my wants. I therefore received it as Emediately from the Lord. & I could give a variety of instances of the same nature — it Seem^d I cd hardly think of a thing but it was ~~[illegible]~~ brought to me — O how true is that promise what is ~~giving~~ given up for God shall be restored many fold in this present Life. before the Lord made me to wander from my Fathers House — a particular person used to upbraid me with that reflection & you^ll Soon find the difference between your fathers house & such poking Holes as you will live in there you want have one inch but the Common Street whereas you have been used to ~~[illegible]~~ achors of fine Garden in w^h you much delighted, & how tired will you be of such trash as you will provide instead of the plentifull provition of his table, before you have lived So for 6 month I'll engage you will wish yourself back again & yr religion out of the way"!

But was it So? O God thou knowest — thou fed me as with the finest Wheat flour & with water out of the Stony rock did then Sustain me. —

1P

me. all I could want, all I could desire was bountifully supply'd. when I have sometimes been reflecting on my situation inwards & outward I have remembered that word "the meek shall inherit the earth". Glory be to thee thou hast meek and my spirit - & thou makest me to ~~possess~~ possess all things. often I said as in amaze - what can I wish what can I fear - I have no ~~desire~~ desire - the will of God swallows up all - my Jesus and my all my Jesus & my all forever.

End of the first part

1 part